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STATEMENT BY THE TREASURER OF ONTARIO

UPON INTRODUCTION OF:

THE ONTARIO PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

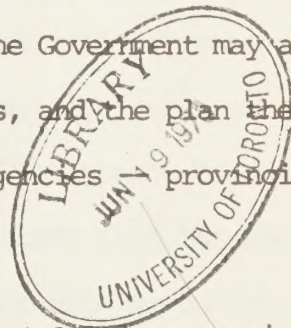
THE PARKWAY BELT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT


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The three Acts being introduced this afternoon represent a major advance in the planning program of the Government of Ontario.

The Ontario Planning and Development Act sets out a new process for the design, adoption and implementation of provincial plans in different areas of Ontario. The Provincial Government is empowered to prepare plans in close consultation with municipalities and others. These plans will then be put through a vigorous process of public examination and hearings. Following this the Government may adopt the plan, with any appropriate modifications, and the plan then becomes a policy guide for all government agencies, provincial and municipal.



The Parkway Belt Planning and Development Act is a special companion piece of legislation enabling us to begin implementation of a system of parkway belts, or multiple use corridors, around Toronto. A draft provincial development plan for the western segment



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of the parkway belt, from Dundas to Markham, has been completed and will be made public at a special presentation later this afternoon. This proposed parkway belt plan, along with a later proposal for the Markham to Oshawa segment, will go through the public examination and hearing process outlined in the Ontario Planning and Development Act and will then be adopted as official policy.

In order that no interim development takes place that is in conflict with the purposes of the parkway belt, the Act provides for temporary land-use regulations. Effective today, these regulations apply in the western section of the parkway belt from Dundas to Markham. In general terms, these regulations will restrict any new non-agricultural land uses in the parkway belt.

The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act sets out a similar process for the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area. The Act establishes a Niagara Escarpment Commission of seventeen members -- eight representing municipalities, eight representing the Province, plus a Chairman. The Niagara Escarpment Commission is given the responsibility of preparing a draft plan for the Escarpment area. The Act stipulates that the plan must have as its goal the preservation of the natural landscape of the Escarpment, and that the plan must be prepared in close consultation with the municipalities affected. Following preparation of the plan and a

process of public examination and hearings, the plan is to be submitted to the Government. After adoption, the Niagara Escarpment Plan will become official policy for all government planning at both the provincial and municipal levels.

In the Regional Municipality of Niagara where official plan preparation now is mature and where resources for planning are quite acceptable the new Niagara Escarpment Commission will be directed to work closely with the region. The Commission will be expected to use much of the existing draft regional plan for Niagara as part of the commission's guidelines. For such areas as Niagara with a proven planning capability the Treasurer will later delegate to the municipality many of the detailed planning responsibilities and authorities he now holds.

The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act also provides for a system of development controls to ensure that all new development is compatible with our objective of Escarpment preservation. It is our intention to designate key parts of the Escarpment area as subject to development control as soon as this Act receives Royal assent.

The three new pieces of provincial planning legislation are complex. It is not possible for me to do more than merely note the basic principles at this time. In order to provide Members of the House and others with a fuller explanation of the Parkway Belt and Niagara Escarpment Acts a special presentation has been arranged for 4:00 p.m. this afternoon in the Ontario Room, Macdonald Block. At that time the Premier, the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development and I will expand upon the policies underlying the legislation introduced today.

This legislation again confirms Ontario as a pioneer in moving forward with a program of provincial-regional planning and development.

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